

FINANCIAL REPORT WITH SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Year Ended March 31, 2005

# Michigan Dept. of Treasury, Local Audit & Finance Division 496 (3-98). Formerly L-3147 AUDITING PROCEDURES REPORT

Serie under P.A. 2									v
Local Governme	ent 7	∌68, as amenα Voe	ed. Filling is ma	Indatory.  Local Governme	int Alama				
☐ City ☐ Tov			⊠ Other	Ocqueoc Bo	earinger Fire Boar	d		County Presque	lala
Audit Date			Opinion Date		Date Accountant F	Report Submit	tted to St	ate-	ISIE
March 31, 2	200	5	August 18,	, 2005	Sentember 1	6 2005			
	nat	for Financia			of government an mmental Accounting and Local Units				
We affirm that:									
1. We have con	mpli	ed with the	Bulletin for th	he Audits of Loc	al Units of Govern	nment in Mid	chigan a	as revised.	
2. We are certif	fied	public acco	untants regis	stered to practic	e in Michigan.				
	n th	e following.	"Yes" respon	nses have heer	n disclosed in the	financial sta	atement	s, including	the notes, or i
You must check	the	applicable	box for each	item below.					
☐ yes ☒ no	1.	Certain co	mponent un	its/funds/agenci	ies of the local uni	t are exclud	led from	the financi	al statements
☐ yes ☒ no	2.	There are	accumulated P.A. 275 of 1	d deficits in one	or more of this un	it's unreser	ved fun	d balances/	retained
☐ yes ☒ no	3.		instances of	-	e with the Uniform	Accounting	g and B	udgeting Ac	t (P.A. 2 of
☐ yes ☒ no	4.	The local to	unit has viola irements, or	ited the conditio	ons of either an ord	fer issued u	inder the	e Municipal	Finance Act
□ yes 🗵 no	5.	The local u	or its requirements, or an order issued under the Emergency Municipal Loan Act.  The local unit holds deposits/investments which do not comply with statutory requirements. (P.A. 20 of 1943, as amended [MCL 129.91], or P.A. 55 of 1982, as amended [MCL 38.1132]).						
☐ yes ☒ no	6.	The local u	ınit has been	delinquent dist	tributing tax revenu	ues that we	re collec	cted for ano	ther taxing
□ yes ⊠ no	yes no 7. The local unit has violated the Constitutional requirement (Article 9, Section 24) to fund current year earned pension benefits (normal costs) in the current year. If the plan is more than 100% funded and the overfunding credits are more than the normal cost requirement, no contributions are due (paid during they year).								
□ yes ⊠ no	8.	The local u 1995 (MCL	nit uses cred . 129.241).	lit cards and has	s not adopted an a	applicable p	olicy as	required by	P.A. 266 of
□ yes ⊠ no									
We have encl	ose	d the follo	wing:			Enclos	ed F	To Be Forwarded	Not Required
The letter of com	nme	nts and reco	ommendation	ns.		Х			
Reports on indiv	idua	il federal fina	ancial assista	ance programs	(program audits).				Х
Single Audit Rep	orts	(ASLGU).							Х
Certified Public Acc	oun	tant (Firm Nan	ne)						
Campbell, Kusterer & Co., P.C. Street Address									
512 N. Lincoln Accountant Signatu	re _				City Bay Ci	ty	State MI	Zip 4870	7
Caupbell	<u> </u>	ustere	A: (0,,	P.C.					

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page_
Independent Auditors' Report	1
Management's Discussion and Analysis	2-3
Basic Financial Statements:	
Government-wide Financial Statements:	
Government-wide Statement of Net Assets	4
Government-wide Statement of Activities	5
Fund Financial Statements:	
Governmental Fund:	
Balance Sheet	6
Reconciliation of Balance Sheet of Governmental Fund to the Statement of Net Assets	7
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances	8
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance of Governmental Fund to the Statement of Activities	9
Notes to Financial Statements	10-14
Required Supplemental Information:	
Budgetary Comparison Schedule – General Fund	15

### CAMPBELL, KUSTERER & CO., P.C.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

August 18, 2005

To the Fire Board Ocqueoc Bearinger Fire Board Presque Isle County, Michigan

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of Ocqueoc Bearinger Fire Board, Presque Isle County, Michigan as of and for the year ended March 31, 2005, which collectively comprise the Fire Board's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of Ocqueoc Bearinger Fire Board's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Ocqueoc Bearinger Fire Board, Presque Isle County, Michigan as of March 31, 2005, and the respective changes in financial position thereof, for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

As described in Note 1, the Fire Board has implemented a new financial reporting model, as required by the provisions of GASB Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements – and Management's Discussion and Analysis – for State and Local Governments*, as of April 1, 2004.

The Management's Discussion and Analysis and budgetary comparison information listed in the table of contents are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management, regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Campbell, Kusterer: Co. P. C.

CAMPBELL, KUSTERER & CO., P.C. Certified Public Accountants

### MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS For the year ended March 31, 2005

The Management's Discussion and Analysis report of the Ocqueoc Bearinger Fire Board covers the Fire Board's financial performance during the year ended March 31, 2005.

#### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Our financial status remained stable over the last year. Net assets at March 31, 2005, totaled \$386,351.62 for governmental activities.

We did not incur any new debt.

#### **OVERVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

This annual report consists of three parts, management's discussion and analysis, the basic financial statements and required supplementary information. The basic financial statements include two different kinds of statements that present different views of the Fire Board and the notes to the financial statements.

The first two statements are entity-wide financial statements and provide both long and short-term information about our overall financial status. These statements present governmental activities.

The remaining statements are fund financial statements, which focus on individual parts of the Fire Board in more detail.

The notes to the financial statements explain some of the information in the statements and provide more detailed data.

Required supplementary information further explains and supports the financial statement information with budgetary comparisons.

#### **ENTITY-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The entity-wide statements report information about the Fire Board as a whole using accounting methods used by private companies. The statement of net assets includes all of the Fire Board's assets and liabilities. The statement of activities records all of the current year revenues and expenses regardless of when received or paid.

The two entity-wide statements report net assets and how they have changed. Net assets are the difference between the entity's assets and liabilities and this is one method to measure the entity's financial health or position.

Over time increases/decreases in the entity's net assets are an indicator of whether financial position is improving or deteriorating.

To assess overall health of the entity you may also have to consider additional factors such as tax base changes, facility conditions and personnel changes.

All of the activities of the Fire Board are reported as governmental activities. This includes the General Fund.

### MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

For the year ended March 31, 2005

#### **FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The fund financial statements provide more detailed information about the Fire Board's funds, focusing on significant (major) funds not the Board as a whole. Funds are used to account for specific activities or funding sources. Some funds are required by law or bond covenants. The Fire Board also may create them. Funds are established to account for funding and spending or specific financial resources and to show proper expenditures of those resources.

The Fire Board has only the General Fund.

### FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE FIRE BOARD AS A WHOLE

During the year we purchased \$135,007.32 of Fire protection related equipment.

### FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE FIRE BOARD'S FUNDS

The General Fund pays for all of the Fire Board's governmental services with total expenditures of \$157,804.27.

### CAPITAL ASSET AND LONG-TERM DEBT ACTIVITY

The Fire Board's governmental activities invested \$135,007.32 in capital assets.

The Fire Board paid \$0 of principal on long-term debt.

### KNOWN FACTORS AFFECTING FUTURE OPERATIONS

We have one year left on our millage. We expect to renew our millage for more equipment and operating funds.

### CONTACTING THE FIRE BOARD'S MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide our taxpayers and creditors with a general overview of the Fire Board's finances and to demonstrate the Fire Board's accountability for the revenues it receives. If you have any questions concerning this report please contact the Fire Board Chairman at 989-734-4935.

# GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS March 31, 2005

_	ASSETS: CURRENT ASSETS: Cash in bank Total Current Assets	Governmental Activities 6 135 03
	NON-CURRENT ASSETS: Capital Assets Less: Accumulated Depreciation	470 507 32 (90 300 73)
	Total Non-current Assets TOTAL ASSETS	(90 290 73)380 216 59386 351 62
_	LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS:  LIABILITIES:  CURRENT LIABILITIES	
-	Total Current Liabilities  NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES  Total Non-current Liabilities	-
	Total Liabilities  NET ASSETS:	-
PP 90, 1	Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt Unrestricted  Total Net Assets	380 216 59 6 135 03
	TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	386 351 62 386 351 62

# GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES Year ended March 31, 2005

_				Program Revenue		
-	FUNCTIONS/PROGRAMS Governmental Activities:	Expenses	Charges for Services	Operating Grants - Contributions	Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Assets	
!	Public safety	39 237 68	<u>58 425 01</u>	93 250 00	<u>112 437 33</u>	
!	Total Governmental Activities	<u>39 237 68</u>	<u>58 425 01</u>	93 250 00	112 437 33	
700000	General Revenues: Miscellaneous					
<u>-</u>	Total General Revenues				6 845 99	
	Change in net assets				6 845 99	
_	Net assets, beginning of year				119 283 32	
	Net Assets, End of Year				<u>267 068 30</u>	
<b>,</b>	, S <b></b>				<u>386 351 62</u>	

# BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUND March 31, 2005

gen.	<u>Assets</u>	Total (General)
_	Cash in bank  Total Assets <u>Liabilities and Fund Equity</u>	6 135 03 6 135 03
	Liabilities Total liabilities  Fund equity: Fund balance:	
	Unreserved:	6 135 03 6 135 03 6 135 03
		<u> </u>

#### RECONCILIATION OF BALANCE SHEET OF GOVERNMENTAL FUND TO THE STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS March 31, 2005

### TOTAL FUND BALANCE - GOVERNMENTAL FUND

6 135 03

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets are different because -

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the governmental funds balance sheet:

> Capital assets at cost Accumulated depreciation

470 507 32 (90 290 73)

TOTAL NET ASSETS - GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

386 351 62

# STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE – GOVERNMENTAL FUND Year ended March 31, 2005

Revenues:	Total (General)
Township of Ocqueoc	
Township of Bearinger	28 662 66
Federal grant	29 762 35
State grant	90 000 00
Miscellaneous	3 250 00
Misocifaticons	6 845 99
Total revenues	0 040 98
Total Tovolides	158 521 00
Expenditures:	
Public safety:	
Fire protection:	
Salaries and wages	
Supplies	10 400 04
Vehicle operation	294 58
Vehicle maintenance	345 19
Payroll taxes	586 34
Insurance	413 12
Utilities	7 176 00
Building maintenance	2 348 60
Miscellaneous	702 55
Capital outlay	530 53
p	135 007 32
Total expenditures	
h amanan	157 804 27
Excess of revenues over expenditures	
oxpenditules	716 73
Fund balance, April 1	. 10 70
,	5 418 30
Fund Balance, March 31	11000
	6 135 03
	<u> </u>

#### RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE OF GOVERNMENTAL FUND TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES Year ended March 31, 2005

NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE - TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUND

716 73

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:

Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures; in the Statement of Activities, these costs are allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation

> Depreciation Expense Capital Outlay

(1644073)135 007 32

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

119 283 32

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS March 31, 2005

#### Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The accounting policies of the Ocqueoc Bearinger Fire Board, Presque Isle County, Michigan, conform to generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governmental units.

#### Reporting Entity

The financial statements of the Fire Board contain all the Fire Board funds that are controlled by or dependent on the Fire Board's executive or legislative branches.

The reporting entity is the Ocqueoc Bearinger Fire Board. The Fire Board is governed by an elected Fire Board. As required by generally accepted accounting principles, these financial statements present the Fire Board as the primary government.

#### Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements, (the Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Changes in Net Assets) report information on all of the non-fiduciary activities of the primary government. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements. Governmental activities, normally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, are reported separately from business-type activities, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges for support. All the Fire Board's government-wide activities are considered governmental activities.

The Statement of Activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function. Program revenues include: (1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use or directly benefit from goods, services or privileges provided by a given function; and (2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function. Taxes, intergovernmental payments and other items not properly included among program revenues are reported as general revenue.

Major individual governmental funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

### Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenue is recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenue in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met. When an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net assets are available, restricted resources are applied first.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenue is recognized as soon as it is both measurable and available. Revenue is considered to be available if it is collected within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the government considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, expenditures relating to compensated absences, and claims and judgments are recorded only when payment is due.

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS March 31, 2005

#### Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation (continued)

The Fire Board reports only one fund as follows:

 The General Fund is used to record the operations of the Fire Board which pertain to maintaining and operating the Fire Board. Included are all transactions related to the approved current operating budget.

#### Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets or Equity

Bank deposits and investments – Cash and cash equivalent investments include cash on hand, demand deposits, certificates of deposit and short-term investments with a maturity of three months or less when acquired. Investments are stated at fair value.

#### Receivables

Receivables have been recognized for all significant amounts due to the Fire Board. Allowances for uncollectible accounts have not been provided for in that collection is not considered doubtful and any uncollected amount would be immaterial.

#### Inventories

Inventories of supplies are considered to be immaterial and are not recorded.

#### Property Taxes

The Fire Board does not levy any property taxes.

#### Encumbrances

Encumbrances involving the current recognition of purchase orders, contracts and other commitments for future expenditures are not recorded.

#### Capital Assets

Capital assets are defined by the Fire Board as assets with an initial cost of more than \$1,400.00 and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost. Donated assets are reported at estimated fair market value at the date of donation. Additions, improvements and other capital outlays that significantly extend the useful life of an asset are capitalized. Other costs incurred for repairs and maintenance are expensed as incurred. Depreciation on all assets is provided on the straight-line basis over the following estimated useful lives:

Building Vehicles and equipment

50 years 10-25 years

### Compensated Absences (Vacation and Sick Leave)

Employees are not allowed to accumulate vacation and sick pay.

#### Post-employment Benefits

The Fire Board provides no post-employment benefits to past employees.

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS March 31, 2005

#### Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

#### **Fund Equity**

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report reservations of fund balance for amounts that are not available for appropriation or are legally restricted by outside parties for use for a specific purpose. Designations of fund balance represent tentative management plans that are subject to change.

#### Accounting Change

Effective April 1, 2004, the Fire Board implemented the provisions of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 34, Basic Financial Statements – and Management's Discussion and Analysis – for State and Local Governments (GASB No. 34). Changes to the Fire Board's financial statements as a result of GASB No. 34 are as follows:

A Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) section providing analysis of the Fire Board's overall financial position and results of operations has been included.

Government-wide financial statements (Statement of Net Assets and Statement of Activities) prepared using the full accrual accounting for all the Fire Board's activities have been provided.

Capital assets in the governmental activities column of the Statement of Net Assets include net assets totaling \$380,216.59.

#### Note 2 - Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

The following procedures are followed in establishing the budgetary data reflected in these financial statements:

- 1. Prior to the beginning of the fiscal year, the proposed budget for each budgetary fund is submitted to the Fire Board for consideration.
- 2. The proposed budgets include expenditures as well as the methods of financing them.
- 3. Public hearings are held to obtain taxpayer comments.
- 4. The budgets are adopted at the activity level by a majority vote of the Fire Board.
- 5. The budgets are adopted on the modified accrual basis of accounting.
- The originally adopted budgets can be amended during the year only by a majority vote of the Fire Board.
- The adopted budgets are used as a management control device during the year for all budgetary funds.
- 8. Budget appropriations lapse at the end of each fiscal year.
- The budgeted amounts shown in these financial statements are the originally adopted budgets with all amendments that were approved by the Fire Board during the fiscal year.

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS March 31, 2005

#### Note 3 - Deposits and Investments

Michigan Compiled Laws, Section 129.91, authorizes the Fire Board to deposit and invest in the accounts of federally insured banks, credit unions, and savings and loan associations; bonds, securities and other direct obligations of the United States, or any agency or instrumentality of the United States; United States government or federal agency obligation repurchase agreements; banker's acceptance of United States banks; commercial paper rated within the two highest classifications, which mature not more than 270 days after the date purchase; obligations of the State of Michigan or its political subdivisions which are rated as investment grade; and mutual funds composed of investment vehicles which are legal for direct investment by local units of government in Michigan. Financial institutions eligible for deposit of public funds must maintain an office in Michigan.

The Fire Board has designated one bank for the deposit of Fire Board funds. The investment policy adopted by the board in accordance with Public Act 196 of 1997 has authorized investment in all investments authorized by state law as listed above.

The Fire Board's deposits and investments are in accordance with statutory authority.

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 3, risk disclosures for the cash deposits are as follows:

	Carrying Amounts
Total Deposits	<u>6 135 03</u>

Amounts in the bank balances are without considering deposits in transit or uncleared checks.

	Bank Balances
Insured (FDIC) Uninsured and Uncollateralized	8 655 36
Total Deposits	8 655 36

The Fire Board did not have any investments as of March 31, 2005.

#### Note 4 - Capital Assets

Capital asset activity of the Fire Board's Governmental activities for the current year was as follows:

Governmental Activities:	Balance 4/1/04	Additions	Deletions	Balance 3/31/05
Building Equipment	169 000 00 166 500 00	<u> 135 007 32</u>	-	169 000 00 301 507 32
Total	335 500 00	135 007 32	-	470 507 32
Accumulated Depreciation _	(73 850 00)	(16 440 73)		(90 290 73)
Net Capital Assets	261 650 00	<u>118 566 59</u>	•	380 216 59

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS March 31, 2005

#### Note 5 - Deferred Compensation Plan

The Fire Board does not have a deferred compensation plan.

#### Note 6 - Risk Management

The Fire Board is exposed to various risks of loss related to property loss, torts, errors, omissions, and employee injuries (workers' compensation). The Fire Board has purchased commercial insurance for property loss, torts and workers' compensation claims. Settled claims relating to the commercial insurance have not exceeded the amount of insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

#### Note 7 - Pension Plan

The Fire Board does not have a pension plan.

#### BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - GENERAL FUND Year ended March 31, 2005

Revenues:	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget Over (Under)
Township of Ocqueoc	12 662 65	32 037 65	28 662 66	(0.071.00)
Township of Bearinger	13 887 35	33 137 35	20 002 00 29 762 35	(3 374 99)
Federal grant	-	90 000 00	90 000 00	(3 375 00)
State grant	•	3 250 00	3 250 00	-
Miscellaneous	_	5 250 QQ	6 845 99	6 945 00
			0 043 99	<u>6 845 99</u>
Total revenues	<u>26 550 00</u>	158 425 00	<u> 158 521 00</u>	96 00
Expenditures: Public safety: Fire protection:				
Salaries and wages	10 775 00	10 775 00	40 400 04	40-1-1-1
Supplies	300 00	300 00	10 400 04	(374 96)
Vehicle operation	450 00	450 00 450 00	294 58	(5 42)
Vehicle maintenance	1 500 00	1 500 00	345 19 586 34	(104 81)
Payroll taxes	525 00	525 00	413 12	(913 66)
Insurance	6 600 00	6 600 00	7 176 00	(111 88)
Utilities	2 400 00	2 400 00	2 348 60	576 00
Building maintenance	1 750 00	1 750 00	702 55	(51 40)
Miscellaneous	-	-	530 53	(1 047 45) 530 53
Capital outlay	200 00	135 500 00	<u>135 007 32</u>	(492 68)
Total expenditures	24 500 00	159 800 00	157 804 27	(1 995 73)
Excess (deficiency) of revenues				
over expenditures	2 050 00	(1 375 00)	716 73	2 091 73
Fund balance, April 1	2 466 72	2 466 72	5 418 30	2 951 58
Fund Balance, March 31	4 516 72	1 091 72	6 135 03	<u>5 043 31</u>

### CAMPBELL, KUSTERER & CO., P.C.

#### CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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TEL (989) 894-1040 FAX (989) 894-5494

### AUDIT COMMUNICATION AND REPORT OF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

August 18, 2005

To the Fire Board Ocqueoc Bearinger Fire Board Presque Isle County, Michigan

We have audited the financial statements of the Ocqueoc Bearinger Fire Board for the year ended March 31, 2005. As required by auditing standards generally accepted in the United States, the independent auditor is required to make several communications to the governing body having oversight responsibility for the audit. The purpose of this communication is to provide you with additional information regarding the scope and results of our audit that may assist you with your oversight responsibilities of the financial reporting process for which management is responsible.

# AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY UNDER AUDITING STANDARDS GENERALLY ACCEPTED IN THE UNITED STATES

We conducted our audit of the financial statements of the Ocqueoc Bearinger Fire Board in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. The following paragraph explains our responsibilities under those standards.

Management has the responsibility for adopting sound accounting policies, for maintaining an adequate and effective system of accounts, for the safeguarding of assets, and for devising an internal control structure that will, among other things, help assure the proper recording of transactions. The transactions that should be reflected in the accounts and in the financial statements are matters within the direct knowledge and control of management. Our knowledge of such transactions is limited to that acquired through our audit. Accordingly, the fairness of representations made through the financial statements is an implicit and integral part of management's accounts and records. However, our responsibility for the financial statements is confined to the expression of an opinion on them. The financial statements remain the responsibility of management.

The concept of materiality is inherent in the work of an independent auditor. An auditor places greater emphasis on those items that have, on a relative basis, more importance to the financial statements and greater possibilities of material error than those items of lesser importance or those in which the possibility of material error is remote.

For this purpose, materiality has been defined as "the magnitude of an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in light of surrounding circumstances, makes it probable that the judgment of a reasonable person relying on the information would have been changed or influenced by the omission or misstatement."

An independent auditor's objective in an audit is to obtain sufficient competent evidential matter to provide a reasonable basis for forming an opinion on the financial statements. In doing so, the auditor must work within economic limits; the opinion, to be economically useful, must be formed within a reasonable length of time and at reasonable cost. That is why an auditor's work is based on selected tests rather than an attempt to verify all transactions. Since evidence is examined on a test basis only, an audit provides only reasonable assurance, rather than absolute assurance, that financial statements are free of material misstatement. Thus, there is a risk that audited financial statements may contain undiscovered material errors or fraud. The existence of that risk is implicit in the phrase in the audit report, "in our opinion."

To the Fire Board
Ocqueoc Bearinger Fire Board
Presque Isle County, Michigan

In the audit process, we gain an understanding of the internal control structure of an entity for the purpose of assisting in determining the nature, timing, and extent of audit testing. Our understanding is obtained by inquiry of management, testing transactions, and observation and review of documents and records. The amount of work done is not sufficient to provide a basis for an opinion on the adequacy of the internal control structure.

#### SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The significant accounting policies are described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

#### **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS**

Auditing standards call for us to inform you of other significant issues such as, but not limited to, 1) Accounting estimates that are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements or because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ markedly from management's current judgments; 2) Significant audit adjustments that may not have been detected except through the auditing procedures we performed; 3) Disagreements with management regarding the scope of the audit or application of accounting principles; 4) Consultation with other accountants; 5) Major issues discussed with management prior to retention; and 6) Difficulties encountered in performing the audit.

We have no significant issues, regarding these matters, to report to you at this time. Audit adjustments were minimal, and are available to review.

#### **GASB 34 IMPLEMENTATION**

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board issued a new reporting model for governmental units which was required to be implemented for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2005. The implementation of this pronouncement for the Ocqueoc Bearinger Fire Board began with the year ended March 31, 2005. The daily operations and recording transactions did not change significantly, however, the Fire Board is required to maintain additional records for the year end adjustments to the final presentation format.

### COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION REGARDING INTERNAL CONTROLS/ COMPLIANCE/ EFFICIENCY

Our procedures disclosed the following conditions that we would like to bring to your attention:

#### **SEGREGATION OF DUTIES**

A separation of duties between persons who authorize transactions and persons who have control over the related assets does not always exist.

The least desirable accounting system is one in which an employee is responsible for executing the transaction and then recording the transaction from its origin to its ultimate posting in the General Ledger. This increases the likelihood that intentional or unintentional errors will go undetected. In most cases, adequate segregation of duties substantially increases control over errors without duplication of effort.

We understand that due to the size of needed staff, a proper segregation of duties may be impractical and the "cost to benefit" relationship may not justify the addition of accounting staff to accomplish the desired segregation.

These conditions were considered in determining the nature, timing and extent of the audit tests to be applied in our audit of the Fire Board's financial statements and this communication of these matters does not affect our report on the Fire Board's financial statements, dated March 31, 2005.

To the Fire Board Ocqueoc Bearinger Fire Board Presque Isle County, Michigan

#### SUMMARY

We welcome any questions you may have regarding the foregoing comments and we would be happy to discuss any of these or other questions that you might have at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Campbell, Kusterer: Co., P.C. CAMPBELL, KUSTERER & CO., P.C. Certified Public Accountants